(ii) Chief Secretaries of the State Governments are required to hold quarterly meetings to review the progress of implementation of on-going projects under NLCPR.

(iii) States are required to carry out project inspections periodically.

(iv) A nodal officer for each project is made responsible for project implementation and monitoring.

(v) Field inspections are carried out by officers of the Ministry of DONER.

Where the slow implementation of a project causes concern, State Governments are reminded through letters from various levels, including the Minister for the Development of the North-Eastern Region. We have recently introduced monthly reviews through video-conferences with officers of State Governments. In addition, for closer monitoring, the data base of NLCPR projects has been computerized and officers in the Ministry of DONER, as well as officials concerned in the States, have been trained for online data entry as well as retrieval.

Study report conducted by Brazilian company

2491. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent study conducted by Brazilian company saying Indian dams are heating up the globe and that hydro projects are the world's worst methane polluters; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Some news reports were there based on the research studies carried out in Brazil and same were extended without any Indian experimental data. Scientifically, methane, a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming, is emitted from reservoirs of dams. However, no scientific study, as on date has been brought out pertaining to methane emissions from the reservoirs of Indian dams.

Hydro-electricity projects in Assam

2492. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an environmental risk assessment study was not done before designing hydro-electricity projects, small and large, in Assam and North East;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the findings of the study regarding feasibility of the project ecologically and effects on the bio-diversity and brittle environment; and

(d) whether any environment norms have been violated in the process of earmarking projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per EIA Notification 2006, Hydroelectric projects, which require environment clearance from Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has to prepare Environmental Impact Assessment report which include risk assessment of the project. On the basis of the study hydroelectric projects are designed.

(c) Findings of these studies varies from project to project which includes likely affected areas and magnitudes. Environmental safeguard measures are incorporated in these reports to check any disaster to the bio diversity and environment around the hydro electric projects.

(d) While according environment clearance the safeguards are incorporated. Implementation of these are monitored by the Regional office of the Ministry. Violation, if any, are brought to the notice of the project proponent and corrective action taken.

Protection of forests by villagers

2493. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the villagers in tribal areas are being involved in protecting the forests;

(b) if so, the mechanism thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988 Government of India has issued guidelines to States on June 1, 1990 to involve village, communities in regeneration and protection of forest areas under the Joint Forest Management programme. The JFM strategy has been adopted by all the 28 States and 2 Union Terriortries. As per the information furnished by the State Forest Departments there are more than one lakh village level Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) managing approximately 22 million hectare of forest area.

(c) Does not arise.

Banning production of fluorescent lights

2494. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to ban the production of excessive compact fluorescent lights, which lead to climate change and energy crisis in the country;